

Message Text

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22

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 DHA-02 IO-11 /078 W
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R 041454Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2774

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

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CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, ZA

SUBJECT: TWO BRITISH JOURNALISTS RELEASED BUT PROFESSOR REMAINS
IN DETENTION

REF: LUSAKA 277; STATE 26035

1. SUMMARY: TWO DETAINED BRITISH JOURNALISTS WERE RELEASED FEB 2
BUT BRITISH UNIVERSITY PROFESSOR CLIFFE REMAINS IN DETENTION. IN
BOTH CASES DETENTIONS APPEAR TO HAVE ARISEN PRIMARILY BECAUSE THE
INDIVIDUALS INVOLVED HAD LITERATURE CONCERNING ANGOLA IN THEIR
POSSESSION AND THIS AROUSED SUSPICION OF RELATIVELY LOW LEVEL
SPECIAL BRANCH TYPES. END SUMMARY.

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2. TWO DETAINED BRITISH JOURNALISTS, LOWDEN AND DALBY, WERE

RELEASED BY ZAMBIAN POLICE ON FEB. 2. ACCORDING LOCAL PRESS, BOTH MEN HAVE BEEN PERMITTED REMAIN IN LUSAKA FOLLOWING THEIR RELEASE. AN AMERICAN JOURNALIST WHO KNOWS DALBY AND HAS TALKED WITH HIM SINCE RELEASE SAID THAT NEITHER MAN QUITE SURE WHY THEY HAD BEEN DETAINED. DETENTION MAY HAVE BEEN RELATED TO REPORT WHICH DALBY IS SAID TO HAVE FILED REFERRING TO ZAMBIAN TROOP MOVEMENTS IN ANGOLAN BORDER AREA BUT MAY EQUALLY WELL HAVE COME AFTER TWO WERE OVERHEARD BY ZAMBIAN SPECIAL BRANCH POLICE DISCUSSING ANGOLA IN BAR AND WERE THEN FOUND TO HAVE MATERIAL CONCERNING ANGOLA IN THEIR POSSESSION. LEANING TOWARD LATTER THEORY, UK HICOM TOLD US THAT INITIAL INTERROGATION OF TWO HAD BEEN VERY INCOMPETENTLY HANDLED BY MEN SEEMINGLY BARELY LITERATE IN ENGLISH. ONCE MATTER APPARENTLY REACHED HIGHER AND MORE RESPONSIBLE LEVEL, DECISION WAS QUICKLY MADE BY HOME AFFAIRS MINISTER MILNER TO ORDER THEIR RELEASE.

3. IN CALL AT EMBASSY EARLY FEB. 4, MRS. BURGESS-CLIFFE, AMCIT WIFE OF DETAINED BRITISH POLITICAL SCIENCE LECTURER AT UNIVERSITY OF ZAMBIA (UNZA), TOLD US SHE BELIEVED POLICE ATTENTION HAD FOCUSED ON HER HUSBAND BOTH BECAUSE OF HIS FACULTY POSITION AND BECAUSE FAMILY IN POSSESSION OF LITERATURE ON ANGOLA. SAID CLIFFES HAD FIRST BEEN APPROACHED BY POLICE DURING LUNCHTIME AT LUSAKA CLUB SHORTLY AFTER MRS. CLIFFE HAD PICKED UP MAIL WHICH INCLUDED ENVELOPE CONTAINING LITERATURE ON ANGOLA MAILED THEM BY LONDON-BASED "COMMITTEE ON ANGOLA" HEADED BY LORD GIFFORD. POLICE SEEMED AWARE OF CLIFFES POSSESSION THIS ENVELOPE WHICH THEY CONFISCATED FROM MRS. CLIFFE'S PURSE. LATER, CID OFFICERS TOLD MRS. CLIFFE THAT CONTENTS OF ENVELOPE WERE BASIS FOR DETENTION ORDER AGAINST HER HUSBAND. POLICE ALSO CONFISCATED FROM CLIFFE HOUSEHOLD YEAR-OLD DOCUMENT ON ANGOLA PREPARED BY AMCIT OFFICIAL OF LUSAKA UNDP OFFICE AND SOME BACKGROUND LITERATURE ON COUNTRY. MRS. CLIFFE TOLD US THAT WHILE SHE AND HER HUSBAND HAD BEEN PRESENT ON UNZA CAMPUS DURING JANUARY 15 STUDENT DEMONSTRATION AGAINST ZAMBIA'S ANGOLA POLICY, CLIFFE HAD WATCHED DEMONSTRATION FROM HIS OFFICE WINDOW AND HAD NOT TAKEN PART.

4. RE STATUS DORIS BURGESS CLIFFE (STATE 26035), MRS. CLIFFE TOLD US THAT SHE NO LONGER FEELS SHE HERSELF IS IN DANGER OF ARREST. SHE HAS HOWEVER MADE ARRANGEMENTS WITH FRIENDS TO KEEP EYE ON HER AND TO LOOK AFTER CHILDREN WERE SHE SUDDENLY DETAINED. SHE WAS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PERMITTED VISIT HUSBAND IN LUSAKA CENTRAL REMAND PRISON ON FEB 3. UK CONSULAR OFFICIALS HAVE ALSO HAD ACCESS TO CLIFFE. AT OUR ENCOURAGEMENT SHE IS ATTEMPTING ENGAGE SERVICES OF LOCAL ATTORNEY TO ADVISE HER AND CLIFFE ON HIS RIGHTS UNDER ZAMBIAN STATE OF EMERGENCY LAWS. SO FAR NO CHARGES FILED AGAINST CLIFFE. MRS. CLIFFE REPORTS RECEIVING CABLES SUPPORTING HUSBAND AND PRINCIPLE OF ACADEMIC FREEDOM FROM AS FAR AWAY AS SWEDEN AND AUSTRALIA AND ASKED IF STORY OF HIS ARREST HAS ALSO APPEARED IN

AMERICAN PRESS.

5. DEPARTMENT MAY WISH DRAW UPON PARA 4 ABOVE IN RESPONDING TO
QUERY FROM ANN SEIDMAN.

6. COMMENT: WHILE INFORMATION YET AVAILABLE TO US IS STILL TOO
FRAGMENTARY TO DRAW ANY CONCLUSIVE OPIONIONS, OUR TENTATIVE ASSESS-
MENT IS THAT ARREST HAVE TAKEN PLACE ON AUTHORITY OF RELATIVELY
LOW LEVEL SPECIAL BRANCH OFFICERS WHOSE SUSPICIONS WERE AROUSED
BY DETAINEES' INTEREST IN THINGS ANGOLAN BUT WHOSE UNDERSTANDING
OF THE NATURE OF THAT INTEREST OR EVEN OF THE CONTENTS OF THE
DOCUMENTS SEIZED WAS NOT OF A VERY HIGH ORDER. GIVEN PRESIDENT
KAUNDA'S APPEAL TO ALL ZAMBIANS TO BE ON LOOKOUT FOR SUSPICIOUS
FOREIGNERS, AND PRESENCE IN LUSAKA OF UNUSUAL NUMBER OF
FOREIGN JOURNALISTS SPECIFICALLY INTERESTED IN ANGOLA, SURPRISE
IS NOT THAT SUCH INCIDENTS HAVE OCCURRED BUT THAT THERE HAVE NOT
YET BEEN MORE OF THEM.
WILKOWSKI

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